

## About the Center for Faith and Vocation

The Center for Faith and Vocation gives students, faculty and staff space to reflect on faith and spirituality during their time at Butler. Its mission is to encourage and challenge everyone to think about how they are being called to live integrated lives of wholeness and purpose.

The Center strives to deepen students' understanding of their own faith, diverse religious traditions and the meaning of vocation. Students can explore these issues through internships with religious, community and service organizations; on-campus programs; one-on-one counseling; and opportunities for international travel.

The Center honors the diverse religious and spiritual commitments within the Butler community and works with campus ministries and religious communities across Indianapolis to encourage our students' distinct faith expression, interfaith dialogue and a better understanding of what it means to discern vocation.

We welcome your thoughts about the seminar and how Butler can nurture the spiritual commitments of its students.

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The Seminar on Religion and World Civilization is a program of the Center for Faith and Vocation at Butler University, promoting understanding of interfaith and intercultural relations through discussion of religious issues in global perspective.

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The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts,  
Purchase, Horsley and Annie Townsend Bequest  
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Photo: The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

*The Butler University Center for Faith and Vocation presents*

# Religion and Media

2005-2006 Sesquicentennial  
Butler Seminar on Religion and World Civilization



Gerhard Richter, 1986  
*AB, Mediation*

## Four public seminars

Sept. 13 and Oct. 25, 2005  
Jan. 31 and Feb. 28, 2006

Seminars meet from 7 to 9 p.m. in  
Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University  
4600 Sunset Ave., Indianapolis, IN

## Faith and Values in the News: Who, How, When, Where and Why Not

**Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005**

Few topics in the news incite public dissatisfaction more than how the mainstream media report and write about religion. With faith often at the heart of legal battles, political races, social service funding and advocacy issues, it is more important than ever that the media cover religion with intelligence, fairness and accuracy. But economic pressures in the news business and the complexity of covering faith in a pluralistic world portend tough times for those seeking more and better religion in the news.

### Speaker

**Dr. Debra L. Mason**

Mason is a former award-winning journalist and the first executive director of the Religion Newswriters Association and its foundation. She directs the creation of nearly \$4 million in tools and training to improve the public's understanding of religion. In addition, Mason co-edited *Readings in Religion as News* (2000), the only anthology of religion news reporting in the mainstream media.

### Respondent

**Ms. Julia Lieblich**

Former national religion writer for the Associated Press and the *Chicago Tribune*, Lieblich is the author of *Sisters: Lives of Devotion and Defiance* (1992). She earned a master's of divinity degree from Harvard and is a fellow at the University of Washington's Center for the Study of Journalism and Trauma.

## Theology in Contemporary Music: Its Source May Surprise You

**Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2005**

Christian contemporary music is one of the most influential media in American popular culture, driving a multi-million-dollar recording industry. But does this music have anything to say theologically? Is so-called secular pop music doing a better job conveying compelling ideas about faith, spirituality and the search for meaning?

### Speaker

**Mrs. Gloria Gaither**

Known as one of the founders of contemporary Christian praise music, Mrs. Gaither has been at the forefront of the Christian music industry for nearly 40 years. With her husband Bill Gaither, she runs Gaither Music, a company based near Anderson, Ind.

### Respondent

**Dr. Mark Hulsether**

A professor of religion and American studies at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Dr. Hulsether has researched extensively the intersection of religion and popular culture, with a special interest in faith and secular pop music.

## Religion Coverage in the Middle East

**Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006**

War and political conflict dominate news from Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Iraq and the rest of the Middle East. And despite the importance of religion in the region, news coverage in the western media virtually ignores the subject except for religiously inspired violence. What is the role of religion in the news in the Middle East? Why is it often neglected? And which media around the world are doing good work in this arena?

### Speaker

**Mr. Serge Schmemmann**

Editorial page editor for the *International Herald Tribune*, Mr. Schmemmann won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1990. He has spent more than 30 years working in Europe and the Middle East and is the former Jerusalem bureau chief for *The New York Times*. Mr. Schmemmann is the author of *Israel: The Historic Atlas: The Story of Israel From Ancient Times to the Modern Nation* (1997).

### Respondent

**Dr. David Boeyink**

A professor of journalism at Indiana University–Bloomington, Dr. Boeyink specializes in media ethics and brings theological training to this work. He holds two graduate degrees, in theology and religious ethics, from Harvard University.

## Faith on Film: A Search for God and Meaning in Contemporary Film

**Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006**

As popular culture continues to drive communication about faith, contemporary film is an increasingly powerful medium for religious themes. Often, seemingly secular movies offer some of the most compelling spiritual and theological ideas. Three critics offer their take on a single film, *Garden State*, (Fox Searchlight Pictures, 2004). We invite seminar audience members to view the film on their own and come prepared to join a conversation about its meaning and message.

### Panelists

**Dr. Lynn Schofield Clark,**  
University of Colorado

**Mr. Martin Doblmeier,**  
Journey Films

**Dr. William Romanowski,**  
Calvin College

Dr. Clark is a professor of communications studies at the University of Colorado, where her research has focused on the search for meaning in contemporary film, television and on the Internet. Mr. Doblmeier is an internationally known filmmaker based in the Washington, D.C. area. Among his films is the award-winning *Bonhoeffer*, about the German theologian killed for his outspoken opposition to the Nazis; Dr. Romanowski is a professor of theology at Calvin College who studies extensively the role of theology in contemporary film, television and music.